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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT 1949.

To the Chairman and Members

PONTYPOOL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

I beg herewith to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Pontypool Rural District Council.

The implementation of Part III of the National Health Service Act 1946,(Health Services provided by Local Health Authorities) has been revolutionary.The creation of two large Health Authorities i.e.,County Councils and County Borough Councils,did not effect,substantially, Pontypool Rural District Council but ,in many respects has given to the Councils more scope to better its Public Health Services.

Under the de-centralisation of Health Services agreed upon by the County Council and the District Councils and the Ministry , a full time Medical Officer of Health was appointed to Pontypool Rural District from the 1st January 1949. The duties of the Medical Officer of Health include, by agreement,supervision of the Public Health Departments of the other three Local Authorities (i.e.Abergavenny R.D.C. Usk U.D.C. and Abergavenny Borough) together,form No 10 Health Areas within the Administrative County of Monmouth.

The work of the medical Officer of Health is very varied,and as the County Council had to retain seven eleventh's of the Medical Officer's time for Child Welfare clinics and School Medical Inspections.four eleventh's of the time is allocated to sanitary work to be spread over the four Councils.

It is realised that the allocation of the time for the various functions of the Medical Officer of Health is not completely satisfactory,as more time should be given for Public Health work,but but it must be remembered that the National Health Service is the most progressive Service ever enforced in any country and,therefore,liable to re-adjustment in the future .Moreover,the great shortage of doctors prepared to join the Public Health Services ia a handicap,and I personally feel that if salaries are not adequately increased in the near future,shortage of doctors may imperil the working of the whole system.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE RURAL DISTRICTS

The diwtrict comprises of seven parishes with a total area of 34,147 acres and is predominately agricultural with slight urbanisation at Croesyceiliog in the parish of Llanfrechfa Lower.

There is a large Royal Ordnance Factory at Glascoed which employs several thousand opratives,the majority of whom are drawn from the surrounding urban areas.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population at the end of the year was 5700

Rateable Value £25239

Product of a penny rate - £99-10 -0

Number of dwelling houses and residences - 1607

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Babies can be seen once a week at the Usk Centre, and fortnightly at the Croesyceiliog Centre, expectant mothers can be seen fortnightly at Usk Centre. Two Health Visitors are in attendance,and Welfare Foods can be obtained at the Usk Centre.In the case of Croesyceiliog Centre,National Dried Food,Cod Liver Oil and Orange Juice must be obtained at the Food Office.

The monthly average number of babies seen at the Child Welfare Clinics were 153 This figure includes cases from the Usk U.D.C.area.

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

Under the re-allocation of the District Midwifery Service, two District Midwives are resident in the Rural District .

The monthly average of nursing visits was 54

DISTRICT NURSING SERVICE.

There are three District Nurses resident in the Rural DISTRICT

The monthly average number of nursing visits was 308

HEALTH VISITING.

Two Health Visitors are doing the routine domiciliary visits,School Inspections (cleanliness of body and Clothes),and attends the Maternity and child Welare Centre.

NIGHT NURSING SERVICE

The County Council had voted a small sum for the provision of a Night Nursing Service. The Night Nurses,male and female,are to be in possession of certain minimum qualifications ,

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

The County Council has provided a Domestic Help Service which is intended for those cases where there is illness,andwhere there is no able-bodied relative who could give the necessary assistance in the household.

The SErvice has been useful in providing assistance to aged persons and cases of Chronic sick,who otherwise would have had to be admitted to Hospitals,thereby helping to relieve the pressure upon hospital accommodation.

The Service is under the direction of the Area Committee Clerk(Mr D.A.Lewis).Applicants for the Service are assessed to repay the cost of the Service in relation to their income;persons with a gross income of less than £3-0-0.per week receive the Service free of charge.

The hours allocated to each case are recommended after personal investigation by the District Nurse,Midwife,or Health Visitor, and are submitted to me for approval.Caseswhere the re-commendation exceeds 30 hours per week have to be submitted by the Area Committee Clerk to the County Health Committee for investigation Except maternity cases.

There are approximately 30 Domestic Helps in No IO Area,all are engaged on a Temporary Part-time basis.The number of cases attended was 80; the average monthly number of hours worked was 2,220

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The County Council took over the responsibility of the Ambulance Service in 1948. The Rural District was served by one St.John ambulances from Usk and Ambulancesavailable from Pontypool Depot,under the central control of the County Ambulance Officer at Caerleon.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX AND IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPTHERIA

Under the National Health Service Act,1946,vaccination against smmallpox and immunisation against diphtheria has been carried out at the sugeries of the General Practitioners,and at the Maternity

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and child Welfare Centres; in both cases free of charge.

The figures for vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria for the Rural District are as follows;

Vaccination against Smallpox I949

Age groups;- Under I yr.	I to 4yrs	5to I4 yrs	Over I5 yrs	Total
2I	I2	7	8	43

Immunisation against Diphtheria

Age Groups;-	Under 5 yers	5 to I4 yrs	Tatal
	56	I	57

Since the compulsory vaccination against smallpox has been abolished, the Rural District like the rest of the country , followed the trend of a decrease in vaccination;from the public health point of view it is very regrettable.As shown in two outbreaks of imported smallpox, we are not free of the possibility of a more serious outbreak.Great encouragement is given to mothers for both vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria, but the results are more encouraging for immunisation than for vaccination.

HEALTH EDUCATION

The early part of the last century saw the birth of Public Health as we know it now.The main object being the provision of wholesome water supply,sanitation, and notification of infectious diseases. At the beginning of this century the influence of the environment became more apparent and more emphasis was given to this new factor.We relise now that we cannot complete the picture of ideal health without education.
Under the auspices of the Central Council for Health Education, Local Health Authorities have undertaken a campaign to improve the knowledge of the Community on health matters,and a County Health Education Officer was appointed in I948. We must improve our body cleanliness and home cleanliness,including an improvement in our handling of Food.

Some forms of health education have been undertaken,including display of posters and distribution of leaflets,and I feel this is one of our major tasks in public health to educate the people on all aspects of life.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE.

A Councy Psychistrist was appointed in I948 for the purpose of a Mental Health Dervice. This Service is co-ordinated with the Regional Hospital Board,and Hospital Management Committees.

No Adult Guidance Clinics are held in the Rural District, but individual cases, patients suffering from early nervous strain,and who are finding difficulty in adjusting themselves either in their home or at their work, are seen by Dr J.Newcombe the County Psychistrist.Cases considered too far advanced are referred to the Regional Hospital Board Psyshiatrist.

WELFARE SERVICES

The Welfare Officer Of No IO Area caters for the needs of Abergavenny Borough as regards Welfare Service,which come within the provisions of the National Assistance Act,I946.

MEDICAL APPLIANCES.

The location of the Medical Appliances Depot for the Rural District is Mrs Dunnett Claremont Croesyceiliog

LOCATION OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND AREA HEALTH OFFICE

The County Council has now taken over Leven House, Abergavenny, and the Services for which I am responsible will be operated from there.

VITAL STATISTICS	Totals	Males	Females
Total Deaths (per Registrar	7I	4I	30
Corrected Deaths.....	66	40	26
Deaths Rate per I000.....	II.6		
Death Rate for County of Monmouth	I2.I		
Death Rate for England and Wales.....	II.7		

CAUSES OF DEATHS	Males	Females
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	I	
Measles.....		
Cancer of Stomach.....	2	
Cancer of Breast.....		
Cancer all other sites.....	7	5
Diabetes.....		I
Intracranial vascular lessions.....	3	6
Heart Diseases.....	I3	6
Other diseases of circulatory system....	3	
Bronchitis.....	3	I
Pneumonia.....		I
Ulcer of stomach orduodenum.....		
Other Digestive diseases.....	2	
Nephritis	I	
Congenital malformation; Birth injuries, Infant Dis.....	I	4
Suicide.....	-	-
Road Accidents.....	-	-
Other violent causes.....	-	-
All other causes.....;	4	2
	40	26

	Males	Females
Total births.....	52I	498
Corrected after transfer.....	48	45
Legitimate.....	48	43
Illegitimate.....	-	2

Total births (Corrected after transfer) 93.

Birth Rate per I000..... I3.3
Birth Rate for County of Monmouth..... I8.2

Deaths of Infants under I year.	Males	Females.
Total deaths under I year.....	I	4

Infantile mortality rate..... 53.8
County Rate..... 42.7

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Ninety-one cases of infectious disease were notified during the year and of these it was found necessary to remove five cases to Isolation Hospital.

ANALYSIS OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever	8
Pneumonia	I
Measles and German Measles	50
Whooping cough	3I
Anterior Poliomyelitis	I
Tatal	9I

The necessary steps of isolation of contacts and dis-infection were all taken where necessary.

Tuberculosis.

The position at 3Ist December, I949 was;-

MALES		FEMALES	
Pulimonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary
I4	4	I2	8

Total number of cases on Register at 3Ist December I949- 38

DISCUSSION OF TABLES.

The rate of Scarlet Fever per Iooo population is practically the same as for the rest of the Country, There was one case of anterior poliomyelitis. The child was treated at a Fever Hospital, and has made a complete recovery.

The number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register is less than I948(38 against 49), nevertheless there is room for further improvement, and once more I draw the attention of the Health Committee to the importance of finfing suitable accommodation as soon as cases are discharged from Sanitoria. As I have often said at the Health Committee, Tuberculosis is an infectious disease of the household, and we must bear in mind it will spread to the family if proper measures are not taken and the most important of these measures is the sleeping accommodation. A case of tuberculosis must have one room of its own, and it is only by taking these measures that we can hppe to stamp out this glaring evil.

In conclusion, I may say the health of the Rural District is satisfactory.

I have the honour to be
Your obedient Servant ,

F.C.K.Harvey.

Medical Officer of Health.

PONTYPOOL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sessions House,
USK.....Mon.

15th June 1950.

To: The Chairman and Members of the
Pontypool Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Rpeort for the year 1949 as follows:-

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Houses	311
Re-inspections	268
Nuisances	151
Cowsheds and Dairies	372
Water Supplies	593
Food Inspections	47
Disinfections	12
Disinfestations	31
Factories and Workplaces	95
Miscellaneous	132
	2012

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

(i)(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Housing Acts).	311
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	311
(ii)(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.	89
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	89
(iii)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	5
(iv)	Number of dwellings (exclusive of those referred to under proceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	107

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. 92

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act,1936. 1

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 14

(ii) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By Owners. 12

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners. Nil.

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act,1936:-

(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. 5

(ii) Number of houses demolished in puruance of Demolition Orders. 1

OVERCROWDING.

The housing accomodation of the district is still overtaxed and is largely due to the influx of key workers and the greater number of young married couples. The erection of new factories in the surrounding Urban Districts has also contributed to the p roblem insomuch as many of the employees of the factories have moved into the District. Whilst the population remains in a fluid state it is impossible to give a true figure of the number of houses which became overcrowded during the year.

The Council are, however, doing their utmost to relieve overcrowding by re-housing the families in the new houses which are being completed.

POST WAR HOUSING.

Fourteen new Council Houses were completed during the year. The houses were all of the traditional type, pleasing in appe and very suitable for the housing of medium sized families. A further thirty-two houses were under construction at the end of t year.

Six privately constructed houses were completed during the year.

HOUSING REPAIRS.

A further improvement in the availability of materials was experienced during the year but labour still remains most diffi Only most urgent works can still be dealt with.

CARAVANS.

Some ten caravans remained stationed in the district at the end of the year. Water supply and sanitary accomodation to the caravans was satisfactory. Three of the occupiers of caravans

have been granted Building Licences and it is certain that the houses will be completed and the caravans removed during the year.

SCHOOLS.

Schools are visited periodically and sanitation and water supply of most are satisfactory. Drainage difficulties are being experienced at Goetre School but the Education Authority have been prevailed upon and are now taking the necessary steps for the provision of a properly designed and constructed sewage disposal works.

Difficulties were also experienced with the sewage disposal works at the Institute of Agriculture but the Education Authority took immediate steps for the renovation of the works.

WATER SUPPLY.

Eleven samples of water were taken from the public mains during the year. Two of the samples were slightly below the standards required but the Bulk Suppliers were immediately notified and the proper standards immediately attained.

The Council is proceeding with the schemes for the supply of water to the parishes of Goetre, Mamhilad and Kemeys Commander, and at the end of the year the work of laying the mains was almost complete. These schemes will provide for the supply of water to some 160 houses and also an appreciable number of dairy farms.

During the year the Council purchased from the Ministry of Supply the water main running through the village of Penpelleni, and are utilising this main for the supply of water to the new houses now in course of erection at this village and also supplying some twenty existing houses.

At the end of the year approximately 590 houses were being supplied from the public mains, these being served as follows:-

Llanfrechfa Lower supplied by R.D.C.	381
Goetre Fawr	17
Gwehelog Fawr	16
Llanhennoc Fawr	10
Goetre Fawr and Llanbadoc Fawr supplied by the Pontypool Gas & Water Company	145
	569

A further 22 houses in the parish of Llanfrechfa Lower are supplied by standpipe.

The Llanover Estate supply some 33 houses in the Parish of Goetre Fawr. This supply being for houses on the estate only.

The Council are promoting further schemes for the provision of mains supplies in the parishes of Llangybi, Llanbadoc, Tredunnoc, Glascoed and Gwehelog. Permission to proceed with the scheme for Glascoed having been given during the present year. This work is to be commenced in April 1951.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The parish of Llanfrechfa Lower is provided with a sewerage system for the ward of Croesyceiliog only but the work of providing sewerage and sewage disposal works in the ward of Ponthir was commenced during the year. The existing sewerage system of Croesyceiliog deals with the drainage from some 275 houses and the system at Ponthir now in course of construction is to provide for some 90 houses.

The sewerage scheme providing for the village of Little Mill in the parish of Goetre Fawr, and part of Monkswood in the parish of Llanbadoc Fwar was completed during the year and works of connecting to the sewer and also conversions was proceeding at the end of the year.

All necessary notices were served on owners for the connecting to the sewers, some 60 houses are to be served.

An extension to the sewer to provide for the drainage of some twenty two houses in the Croesyceiliog area was also being proceeded with.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

Refuse is now being collected throughout the larger and more thickly populated parishes. Collections being made weekly from some 450 houses in Llanfrechfa Lower and some 40 houses in Llanbadoc Fawr. Fortnightly collections are being made from some 240 houses in the parishes of Goetre Fawr and part of Monkswood.

The Council have also undertaken to perform a monthly collection along the main district roads throughout the remaining scattered parishes of the area, and this scheme, which is to cover an additional 350 houses is to be commenced during the present year.

NUISANCES.

A number of these were reported and investigated and all were dealt with by both formal and informal action.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

Particulars of premises on Register a s at October 1949:-

Producers	175
Retailers	11

Cowsheds were frequently inspected and such matters as arose attended to. The prosperity in the agricultural industry is being reflected in the increasing numbers of cowsheds and dairies which are being brought up to modern standards and also in the installation of piped water supplies which were being installed with the aid of the grants ava ilable.

Some forty samples of milk were taken from the retail milksellers and with the exception of three samples were satisfactory.

The three unsatisfactory samples were due to the presence of Brucella Abortus and as a result both the Medical Officer and myself made all necessary investigations and took precautions for the pasteurisation of the milk concerned. Individual samples proved three of the cows in the particular herd to be infected and the farmer was instructed and immediately disposed of by slaughter the animals so concerned.

INFESTATION ORDER.

The larger part of the Rural District is agricultural and farm premises were dealt with by the officers of the Agricultural Executive Committee. The necessary treatments of the sewers were carried out and regular treatments to the Councils refuse tips performed. Such other infestations as occurred were of a minor character and were promptly dealt with.

FOODSHOPS ETC.

The very small number of foodshops in the Rural District were visited frequently and all were found to be well regulated.

FACTORIES ACTS.

1. Inspections for the purpose of the provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector).

Premises. (1)	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4,5 are enforced by Local Authority	4	26	nil	nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) above in which Section 7 is enforced by L.A.	11	43	3	nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by L.A.	9	26	nil	nil
Total	24	95	3	nil

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of defects.			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M.I.	Prosecutions
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:				
Want of cleanliness	2	2		
Want of ventilation	1	1		
Overcrowding	-	-		
Want of drainage of floors....	1	1		
Other nuisances.....	1	1		
Sanitary Accomodation (insufficient..... (unsuitable or (defective.....	2	2		
(not separate for (sexes.....	-	-		
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts:				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses (S.10)	-	-		
Other offences.....				
Total	7	7	nil	nil

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Cyril Morgan
Sanitary Inspector.